

REMARKS

Rejections Pursuant to 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1 and 33 as anticipated by Cabrera et al. (WO 98/58253) along with dependent claims 2-13, 15, and 17-23. Namely, the Examiner states that Cabrera discloses a monolithic sorbent of “bodies that have macropores”. However, as described below, Cabrera fails to disclose the particular sorbent material as claimed in the present application.

Independent claims 1 and 33 have been amended to clarify that embodiments of the present application include sorbent particles having “cylindrical channel(s)”. That is, as evident in Figs. 1, 5, and 6 alone, sorbent particles may include ‘longitudinally oblong tubular passageways’ (i.e. see definitions for ‘cylinder’ and ‘channel’ including in *Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*, 1996).

Cabrera on the other hand simply discloses sorbent material as having pores. While the Examiner points out that the pores of Cabrera may be large (i.e. “macropores”), this provides no disclosure regarding their shape. Indeed, “cylindrical channels” for the purposes described and as claimed in the present application are nowhere to be found in Cabrera. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests removal of rejections pursuant to 35 USC § 102.

Rejections pursuant to 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 18 as unpatentable over Tom et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,704,965) in view of Maroldo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,104,530). Dependent

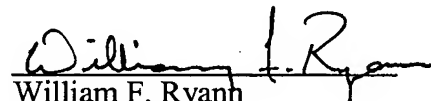
claims 13 and 19-23 are similarly rejected. However, applicant provides herewith a terminal disclaimer with respect to the Tom reference as this Patent and the present application include a single common assignee. Indeed, the first named inventor in Tom is the sole inventor of the present application, Glenn M. Tom. Therefore applicant respectfully requests removal of rejections pursuant to 35 USC § 102.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (203) 794-1100 should this be seen as helpful in prosecution of this application.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0860.

Respectfully submitted,


William F. Ryan
Registration No. 44,313

Advanced Technology Materials, Inc.
7 Commerce Dr.
Danbury, Ct. 06810
203 794-1100, Ext. 4140
203 797-2544 Fax
Attorney Ref: ATMI-472